Natural Treatment Plants!

Wetland plants have adapted to life in areas where water is present all or part of the year and play an important role in keeping water clean.

Camassia quamash (Camas lily)

Wetland plants have adapted to life in areas where water is present all or part of the year. Represented by trees as mighty as the oak and flowers as tiny as the rein-orchid, there are hundreds of plant species found in wetlands. Specialized roots, stems and leaves help the plants obtain nutrients from the water and soil.

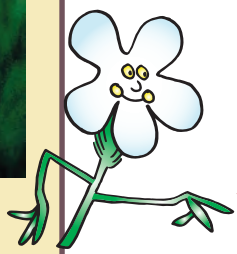
Wetland plants play an important role in keeping water clean by filtering out pollutants that are carried with the water that flows through wetlands. The pollutants are absorbed by the plant roots and stored in the stems and leaves.

Tufted hairgrass

Popcorn flower

Sedge

Juncus



Look for these plants when you visit the wetlands!

SPLASH!
Stormwater Pollution: Learn and Share

FEBRUARY

SPLASH!
Stormwater Pollution: Learn and Share

The Mighty McKenzie!

Our drinking water comes from the McKenzie River. The McKenzie River starts in the mountains and travels to Eugene where it flows into the Willamette River.

FEBRUARY 2001

The Water Cycle

SPLASH!
Stormwater Pollution: Learn and Share

Label the picture with the correct words:

Evaporation Condensation

Precipitation Storage

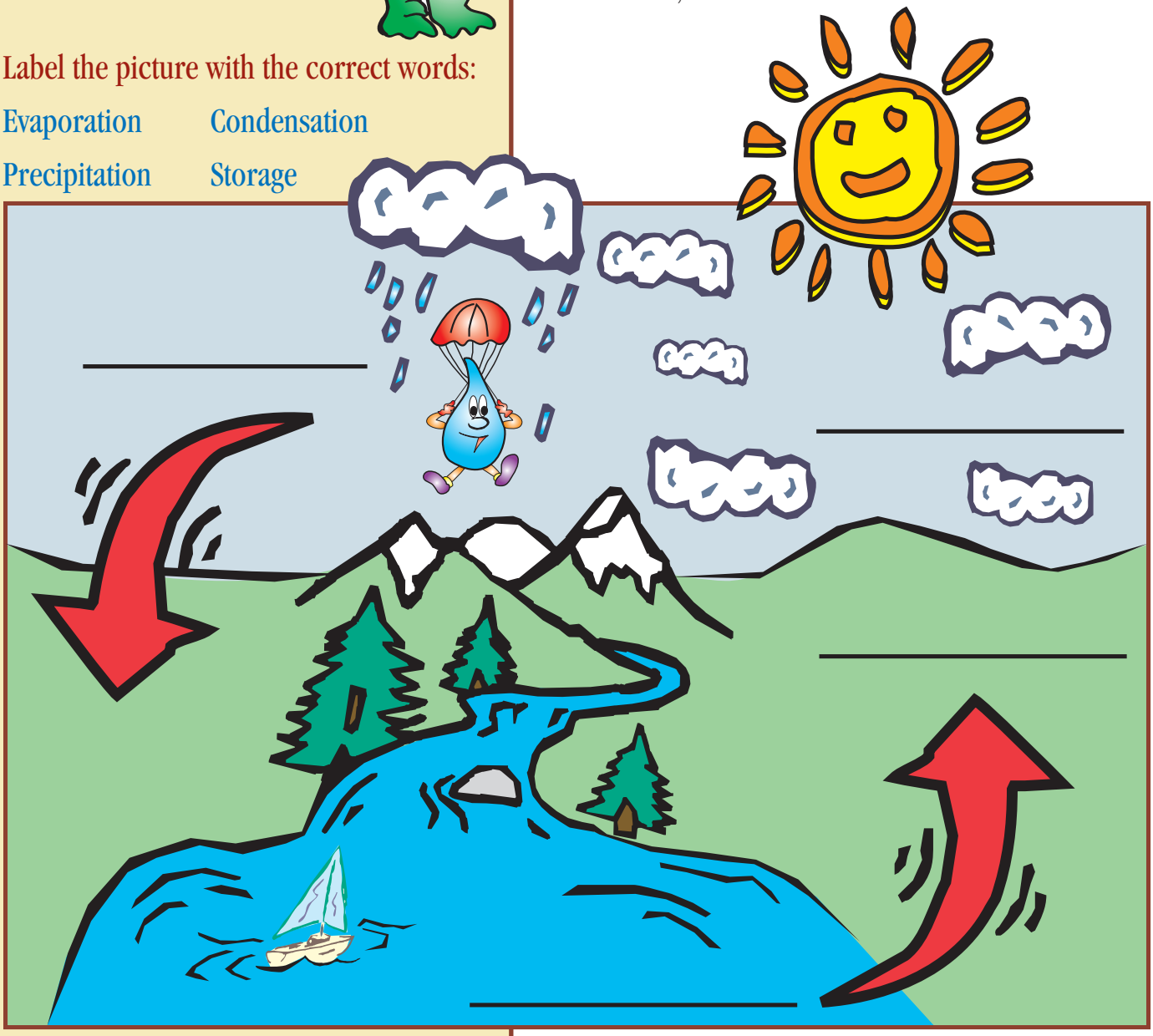
What is the water cycle?

Evaporation: Evaporation occurs when the heat from the sun causes water on the earth's surface to evaporate into a water vapor. (eVAPORate).

Condensation: Once the water vapor enters the atmosphere, it cools and forms clouds. Clouds consist of billions and billions of water droplets. This process is called condensation. When the water droplets become too heavy for the cloud to hold, they fall to the earth as precipitation.

Precipitation: The water that falls back to earth from the clouds is called precipitation. Precipitation can fall as rain, snow, hail or sleet. Once the water reaches the ground, the cycle starts all over again with evaporation.

Storage: A supply of water set aside for future use. Examples include lakes, rivers and wetlands.



Eugene's 3 Water Systems

Water is a precious, limited resource. Eugene's water resources are managed by three separate systems: drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater.

1 Drinking Water

Eugene's drinking water source, the McKenzie River, is fed by melting snows and mountain springs. River water is pumped to a filtration plant where Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) removes impurities. Chlorine is added to kill bacteria and inactivate viruses. The water is then put through an activated charcoal filter before it is pumped to our homes and schools.

2 Wastewater

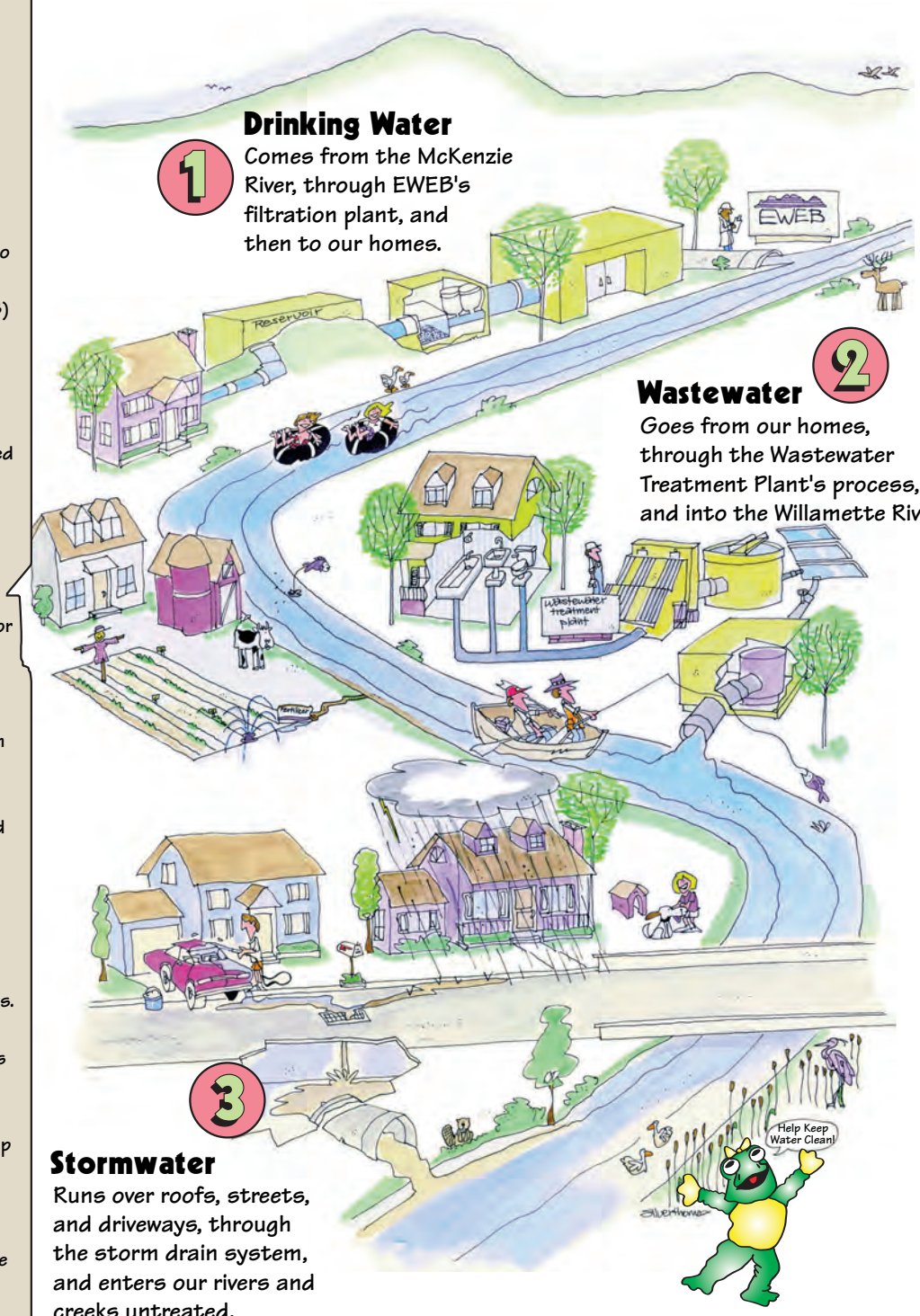
The Eugene/Springfield Wastewater Treatment Plant treats the water we have used for bathing, cleaning, and cooking. Sanitary sewers carry this wastewater to the treatment plant where it is cleaned through primary and secondary treatment processes. It is then disinfected before being released to the Willamette River.

3 Stormwater

Stormwater is not treated but flows through the storm drain system into our rivers and creeks. Pollutants can be washed from our driveways, roofs, and streets into the storm drain system. Keeping pollutants out of stormwater is a good way to help keep water clean.

Help Keep Water Clean

Learn how your actions can make a difference. Call Eugene Public Works Stormwater Information at 682-2739 to learn more.



CITY OF EUGENE
STORMWATER
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

FEBRUARY 2001

Water Awareness Test

Every day we do – or don't do – things that affect the amount of water we use and the condition or "quality" of the water we pour out.

Circle the number on the right side that shows if you or your family "NEVER," "SOMETIMES," or "OFTEN" do the following things. Then add up all your numbers and see how you are doing.

SPLASH!
Stormwater Pollution: Learn and Share

FEBRUARY 2001

Do you or your family . . .

	NEVER	SOMETIMES	OFTEN
1. Leave the tap water running as you brush your teeth?	1	2	3
2. Turn the lawn sprinkler on during the middle of the day?	1	2	3
3. Throw used containers of paint, solvents, or harsh cleansers in the trash?	1	2	3
4. Empty leftover paint, solvents, or cleansers into the kitchen sink or down storm drains?	1	2	3
5. Run the washing machine or dishwasher with small loads?	1	2	3
6. Water your lawn frequently during the summer to make your lawn green and beautiful?	1	2	3
7. Use lots of fertilizers and lawn feeder to help the lawn recover from winter?	1	2	3
8. Clean the driveway, sidewalk or curb side by hosing it with water?	1	2	3
9. Leave the shower running to heat up the bathroom?	1	2	3
10. Wait to repair a dripping faucet until it turns into a steady leak?	1	2	3
11. Use the toilet to dispose of ordinary waste around the house?	1	2	3
12. Wash the car every weekend in the summer?	1	2	3
13. Change your oil in the street or use storm drains to dispose of used oil?	1	2	3
14. Sweep lawn trimmings into the curb or down storm drains or toss in creeks, or ditches?	1	2	3
15. Use a garbage disposal to get rid of food scraps?	1	2	3

TOTAL